

Appln No. 09/112,777
Amdt. Dated December 11, 2003
Response to Office action of September 12, 2003

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. The issues raised are traversed and addressed below with reference to the relevant headings and paragraph numbers appearing under the Detailed Action of the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In response to the Examiner's objections raised in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claim 1 has been amended to introduce further distinctions over the prior art citation.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of fitting curves to the remaining features and then stroking the image in accordance with the curves. A basis for this amendment can be found for example in Figure 1 and on page 12 onwards which describes the steps involved in Figure 1 including the fitting of curves to the edge lists derived from step 5.

In particular, the technique therefore involves fitting curves along the defined features and then providing the brush stroke features in accordance with the curves. This is not describes anywhere in the cited prior art documents.

In particular, as acknowledged by the Examiner in paragraph 5 the document Ogniewicz "Skeleton-Space: a Multiscale Shape Description Combining Region and Boundary Information" does not describe stroking the remaining features of the image with brush strokes.

In addition to this, Litwinowicz "Processing Images and Video for an Impressionist Effect" defines that the brush stroke orientation is either constant or, as set out in Section (B) "Brush Stroke Orientation" the orientation is normal to the intensity gradient or at a predetermined angle. This document does not therefore describe fitting curves to the remaining features and then applying the brush strokes in accordance with the fitted curves.

In view of this, we believe that the claims as amended are novel and inventive over the cited prior art.

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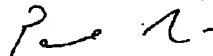
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and claim rejections have been successfully traversed and addressed. The amendments do not involve adding any information that was not already disclosed in the specification, and therefore no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims 1 to 4 and 7, and the application as a whole with these claims, are allowable, and a favourable reconsideration is therefore earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

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